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IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A shim, comprising:

a body with a first portion and a second portion; and
a slot dividing the first portion of said body into a pair of compressible wave-shaped extending arms that compress while being inserted into a gap defined by opposing surfaces and having a dimension smaller than a distance between a trough and a peak of the wave and thereby exerting outward pressure on the surfaces of the gap, wherein a trough and a peak of the wave-shaped extending arms is parallel to a junction between the first portion and the second portion.

Claim 2 (original): The shim according to in claim 1, which further comprises a tab attached to said body at a side opposite said wave-shaped extending arms.

Claim 3 (original): The shim according to claim 2, wherein said tab is attached to said body via an area of reduced body material at a junction point between said tab and said body.

Claim 4 (original): The shim according to claim 2, wherein said tab has an edge, a first surface perpendicular to said edge, and a second surface opposite said first surface, said tab defining at least one groove extending from said edge of said tab in a direction toward a center region of said tab, and said groove being a complete void of material from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 5 (original): The shim according to claim 2, wherein said tab has a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and said tab defines at least one through-hole running from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 6 (original): The shim according to claim 1, wherein at least one area of reduced body material exists at corresponding locations along each of said wave-shaped extending arms.

Claim 7 (original): The shim according to claim 1, wherein said body is comprised of a single piece of material.

Claim 8 (original): The shim according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extending arms has an edge, a first surface perpendicular to said edge, and a second surface opposite said first surface, said at least one extending arm having at least one groove formed therein extending from said edge of said extending arm in a direction toward a center region of said extending arm, and said groove comprising a complete void of material from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 9 (original): The shim according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extending arms has a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and said extending arm is formed with at least one through-hole running from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A shim assembly comprising a plurality of bodies, each with a first portion and a second portion and formed with a slot dividing the first portion into a pair of compressible wave-shaped extending arms that compress while being inserted into a gap defined by opposing surfaces and having a dimension smaller than a distance between a trough and a peak of the wave and thereby exerting outward pressure on the surfaces of the gap, wherein a trough and a peak of the wave-shaped extending arms is parallel to a junction between the first portion and the second portion and each of said wave-shaped bodies are removably attached to at least one other one of said wave-shaped body.

Claim 11 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 10, which further comprises a tab attached to each of said bodies at a side opposite said wave-shaped extending arms.

Claim 12 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 11, wherein said tab is attached to said body via an area of reduced body material on each said body at a junction point between each said tab and each said body.

Claim 13 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 11, wherein each of said tabs has an edge, a first surface perpendicular to said edge, and a second surface opposite said first surface, with each said tab defining at least one groove extending from said edge of said tab in a direction toward a center region of said tab, and said groove being a complete void of material from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 14 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 11, wherein each of said tabs has a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and said tab defines at least one through-hole running from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 15 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 10, wherein at least one area of reduced body material exists at corresponding locations along each of said wave-shaped extending arms.

Claim 16 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said extending arms of each body has an edge, a first surface perpendicular to said edge, and a second surface opposite said first surface, with said extending arm defining at least one groove extending from said edge of said extending arm in a direction toward a center region of said extending arm, and said groove comprising a complete void of material from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 17 (original): The shim assembly according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said extending arms of each body has a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and said extending arm defines at least one through-hole running from said first surface to said second surface.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for shimming an element, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into a gap between, and defined by, two elements, the shim including:

a body with a first portion and a second portion; and

a slot dividing the first portion of the body into a pair of compressible wave-shaped extending arms that compress while being inserted into a gap defined by opposing surfaces and having a dimension smaller than a distance between a trough and a peak of the wave and thereby exerting outward pressure on the surfaces of the gap, wherein a trough and a peak of the wave-shaped extending arms is parallel to a junction between the first portion and the second portion.

Claim 19 (original): The method according to claim 18, which further comprises:

fully inserting the shim between the two elements by utilizing a tab attached to the shim; and

subsequently separating the tab from the shim.

Claim 20 (original): The method according to claim 18, which further comprises removing a portion of the wave-shaped extending arms that extend from the gap between the two elements after the shim has been inserted.

Claim 21 (previously amended): A method for aligning at least two elements, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into each of at least two different gaps defined by, at least two sets of elements, the shims including:

a wave-shaped body with a slot dividing a portion of the body at an end thereof into a pair of wave-shaped extending arms, and a tab attached to the body at a side opposite the wave-shaped extending arms, the tab having an edge, a first surface perpendicular to the edge, and a second surface opposite the first surface, the tab defining at least one groove extending from the edge of the tab in a direction toward a center region of the tab, and the groove comprising a complete void of material from the first surface to the second surface;

connecting a guide-line from the groove in a shim in a first of the at least two different gaps to a corresponding groove in a shim in a second of the at least two different gaps; and

moving at least one of the elements to achieve alignment between the elements.

Claim 22 (previously amended): A method for aligning at least two elements, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into each of at least two different gaps defined by, at least two sets of elements, the shims including:

a wave-shaped body with a slot dividing a portion of the body at an end thereof into a pair of wave-shaped extending arms, and a tab attached to the body at a side opposite the wave-shaped extending arms, with the tab having a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and the tab defining at least one through-hole running from the first surface to the second surface;

threading a guide-line through the hole in the tab of a shim in a first of the at least two different gaps to a corresponding hole in the tab of a shim in a second of the at least two different gaps; and

moving at least one of the elements to achieve alignment between the elements.

Claim 23 (previously amended): A method for aligning at least two elements, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into each of at least two different gaps defined by, at least two sets of elements, the shims including:

a wave-shaped body with a slot dividing a portion of the body at an end thereof into a pair of wave-shaped extending arms having an edge, a first surface perpendicular to the edge, and a second surface opposite the first surface, with at least one of the extending arms having at least one groove formed therein extending from the edge of the extending arm in a direction toward a center region of the extending arm, and the groove comprising a complete void of material from the first surface to the second surface;

connecting a guide-line from the groove in the at least one extending arm of a shim in a first of the at least two different gaps to a corresponding groove in the at least one extending arm of a shim in a second of the at least two different gaps; and

moving at least one of the elements to achieve alignment between the elements.

Claim 24 (previously amended): A method for aligning at least two elements, which comprises the following steps:

inserting at least one shim into each of at least two different gaps defined by, at least two sets of elements, the shims including:

a wave-shaped body with a slot dividing a portion of the body at an end thereof into a pair of wave-shaped extending arms having a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, and at least one of the extending arms defining at least one through-hole running from the first surface to the second surface;

threading a guide-line through the hole in the at least one extending arm of a shim in a first of the at least two different gaps to a corresponding hole in the extending arm of a shim in a second of the at least two different gaps; and

moving at least one of the elements to achieve alignment between the elements.